IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants present all claims whether or not an amendment has been made.

1. (Currently amended) A base transceiver station (BTS) comprising:

a wireless interface operable to receive information from a mobile unit using a wireless link between the wireless interface and the mobile unit;

a processor operable to:

determine a metric associated with the wireless link; and

generate a graded packet encoding the information and the metric, wherein the metric enables elements of a core packet network to select between multiple packets encoding the information; and

a network interface operable to communicate the graded packet to the core packet ~~network.~~ network;

wherein the processor is further operable to:

monitor a metric associated with a second wireless link between the wireless interface and a second mobile unit;

determine that the metric associated with the second wireless link has exceeded a predetermined threshold;

register with a selection group associated with the second mobile unit; and

instruct the wireless interface to begin receiving information from the second mobile unit.

2. (Original) The BTS of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to:

monitor the metric associated with the wireless link;

determine that the metric associated with the wireless link has degraded below a predetermined threshold;

withdraw from a selection group associated with the mobile unit; and

instruct the wireless interface to discontinue receiving further information from the mobile unit.

3. (Original) The BTS of Claim 2, wherein the processor is further operable to instruct the wireless interface to discontinue receiving further information by instructing the wireless interface to discontinue receiving on a Walsh code/frequency combination associated with the mobile unit.

4. (Original) The BTS of Claim 2, wherein the processor is further operable to instruct the mobile unit to discontinue receiving communications from the BTS on a Walsh code/frequency combination.

5. (Original) The BTS of Claim 2, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of BTSs each receiving information from the mobile unit.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The BTS of Claim 1, wherein the metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

8. (Original) The BTS of Claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable to encode an identifier in the graded packet, wherein the identifier enables the elements of the core packet network to match the graded packet with other graded packets encoding the information.

9. (Original) The BTS of Claim 1, wherein the wireless interface is further operable to receive the information from the mobile unit as a packet encoding the information.

10. (Original) The BTS of Claim 1, wherein the information comprises voice information associated with a communications session.

11. (Currently amended) A method for wireless communications comprising:

receiving information from a mobile unit using a wireless link with the mobile unit;

determining a metric associated with the wireless link;

generating a graded packet encoding the information and the metric, wherein the metric enables elements of a core packet network to select between multiple packets encoding the ~~information; and~~ information;

communicating the graded packet to the core packet ~~network.~~ network;

monitoring a metric associated with a second wireless link with a second mobile unit;

determining that the metric associated with the second wireless link has exceeded a predetermined threshold;

registering with a selection group associated with the second mobile unit; and

receiving information from the second mobile unit.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising:

monitoring the metric associated with the wireless link;

determining that the metric for the wireless link has degraded to a predetermined threshold;

withdrawing from a selection group associated with the mobile unit; and

discontinuing to receive further information from the mobile unit.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein discontinuing to receive further information from the mobile unit comprises discontinuing to receive on a Walsh code/frequency combination associated with the mobile unit.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, further comprising instructing the mobile unit to discontinue receiving communications on a Walsh code/frequency combination.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of base transceiver stations each receiving information from the mobile unit.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 11, further comprising encoding an identifier in the graded packet, wherein the identifier enables the elements of the core packet network to match the graded packet with other graded packets encoding the information.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein receiving the information from the mobile unit comprises receiving a packet from the mobile unit, wherein the packet encodes the information.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 11, wherein the information comprises voice information received from a user of the mobile unit.

21. (Currently amended) Wireless communications software operable to:

receive information from a mobile unit using a wireless link with the mobile unit;

determine a metric associated with the wireless link;

generate a graded packet encoding the information and the metric, wherein the metric enables elements of a core packet network to select between multiple packets encoding the ~~information; and~~ information;

communicate the graded packet to the core packet ~~network.~~ network;

monitor a metric associated with a second wireless link with a second mobile unit;

determine that the metric associated with the second wireless link has exceeded a predetermined threshold;

register with a selection group associated with the second mobile unit; and

receive information from the second mobile unit.

22. (Original) The software of Claim 21, further operable to:

monitor the metric associated with the wireless link;

determine that the metric associated with the wireless link has degraded to a predetermined threshold;

withdraw from a selection group associated with the mobile unit; and

discontinue to receive further information from the mobile unit.

23. (Original) The software of Claim 22, further operable to discontinue to receive further information by discontinuing to receive on a Walsh code/frequency combination associated with the mobile unit.

24. (Original) The software of Claim 22, further operable to instruct the mobile unit to discontinue receiving communications on a Walsh code/frequency combination.

25. (Original) The software of Claim 22, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of base transceiver stations each receiving information from the mobile unit.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

28. (Original) The software of Claim 21, further operable to encode an identifier in the graded packet, wherein the identifier enables the elements of the core packet network to match the graded packet with other graded packets encoding the information.

29. (Original) The software of Claim 21, further operable to receive the information from the mobile unit as a packet encoding the information.

30. (Original) The software of Claim 21, wherein the information comprises voice information received from a user of the mobile unit.

31. (Currently amended) A base transceiver station (BTS) comprising:

means for receiving information from a mobile unit via a wireless link with the mobile unit;

means for determining a metric associated with the wireless link;

means for generating a graded packet encoding the information and the metric, wherein the metric enables elements of a core packet network to select between multiple packets encoding the ~~information; and~~ information;

means for communicating the graded packet to the core packet ~~network.~~ network;

means for monitoring a metric associated with a second wireless link with a second mobile unit;

means for determining that the metric associated with the second wireless link has exceeded a predetermined threshold;

means for registering with a selection group associated with the second mobile unit; and

means for receiving information from the second mobile unit.

32. (Original) The BTS of Claim 31, further comprising:

means for monitoring the metric associated with the wireless link;

means for determining that the metric associated with the wireless link has degraded to a predetermined threshold;

means for withdrawing from a selection group associated with the mobile unit; and

means for discontinuing to receive further information from the mobile unit.

33. (Original) The BTS of Claim 32, wherein the means for discontinuing to receive further information comprises means for discontinuing to receive on a Walsh code/frequency combination associated with the mobile unit.

34. (Original) The BTS of Claim 32, wherein the selection group comprises a plurality of base transceiver stations each receiving information from the mobile unit.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The BTS of Claim 31, wherein the metric is a selected one of a signal strength, a signal-to-noise ratio, a bit error rate, and a carrier-to-noise ratio.

37. (Original) The BTS of Claim 31, further comprising means for encoding an identifier in the graded packet, wherein the identifier enables the elements of the core packet network to match the graded packet with other graded packets encoding the information.

38. (Original) The BTS of Claim 31, wherein the means for receiving the information from the mobile unit comprises means for receiving a packet from the mobile unit, wherein the packet encodes the information.

39. (Original) The BTS of Claim 31, wherein the information comprises voice information received from a user of the mobile unit.